13th August 1956]

Sugar Factory at Koliayanur

* 80 Q.—SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state at what stage the starting of a sugar factory at Koliayanur very near Valavanur and Villupuram stands at present?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories, Limited, which has been granted a licence to establish a sugar factory at Koliayanur has not yet taken effective steps to set up the factory.

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN : When a question was put in this Assembly on a former occasion about this sugar factory, the Hon. Minister was pleased to say that the East India Distilleries had been asked to surrender their licence. May I know whether anybody else had applied for starting a sugar factory there and whether it is a fact that Sri M. A. Chidambaram Chettiar, a leading industrialist in this State, has applied for licence for starting the factory?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir. There are applicants who are prepared to undertake the starting of a factory in this area in the private sector. But still the Government do not have definite information as to what the East India Distilleries are proposing to do. Government are looking into the matter in consultation with the Government of India.

Betterment levy

* 80-A Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to reduce the betterment levy to be imposed in the Lower Bhavani Project area?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I am sorry I was not here in time to answer question No. 63 addressed to me. I am obliged to the Hon. the Finance Minister for answering it and giving more information than what I myself could have given.

The answer to the question now put is : No, Sir.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : The water rate and other charges in the Lower Bhavani area come to nearly Rs. 30 per acre. As in no other country such heavy taxes as those in the Lower Bhavani area are levied, will the Government be pleased to consider the dropping of the betterment levy in the Lower Bhavani Project area alone?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : It was after a great deal of deliberation that the Select Committee recommended the rules and regulations that are now operative. So we have to wait and see how they work.